



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

17TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

GRACE IS AMAZING

September 20, 2026

Settle in with Jesus and his family. Welcome home.

Make yourself at home. Find any open spot to sit and settle in. Our worship service is designed to praise God and enrich your faith. We make it easy-to-follow with everything printed for you in this bulletin. Feel free to stay after the service to get to know some of the people you worshiped with today. St. Mark's is a place you can call home, and we look forward to seeing you next time!

Bring the kids. Our congregation enjoys the worshiping family and our services include a children's message. Parents, you can help your kids follow along today with the Kids' Questions sheet. A quiet room to help a restless child is in the lobby (to the right as you exit the main worship space).

There's no obligation. Visitors, while our members regularly give offerings as an expression of thanks to God, you're not expected to give an offering. You are our guests; it's your choice. We're glad you joined us today!

Restrooms are at the back of the lobby—women's on the right and men's on the left.

Questions? If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, feel free to speak with our pastor after the service and visit us online at stmarkslutheran.com.

Glory Be to God the Father

Blue hymnal 608



1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to
 2 Glo - ry be to him who loved us, washed us from each
 3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, glo - ry to the
 4 Glo - ry, bless-ing, praise e - ter - nal! thus the choir of



God the Son, glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:
 spot and stain; glo - ry be to him who bought us,
 Church's King, glo - ry to the King of na - tions;
 an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!



great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,
 made us kings with him to reign! Glo - ry,
 heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,
 thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,



glo - ry while e - ter - nal a - ges run!
 glo - ry to the Lamb that once was slain!
 glo - ry to the King of glo - ry sing!
 glo - ry, glo - ry to the King of kings!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
 Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865–1919
 Text and tune: Public domain

Welcomed into the Family of God

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you!

And also with you!

God's grace is amazing! It really is. To see the amazing depth and beauty of God's undeserved love, we need to see first just how devastating our sin is. When we confess our sins together, we acknowledge that we all desperately need a Savior. We cannot save ourselves. And we come with confidence trusting in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness.

Perfect and gracious Lord, nothing is hidden from you. You know all my sins, every regret, and all the hurt I've caused. My sins deserved your just punishment. Thank you for your undeserved love! Thank you for finding me when I was lost and rescuing me from all my sins. I trust in Jesus, my perfect Savior.

Come and find your heavenly Father's welcome. He loves you and he will never turn you away. Come settle in with Jesus and his family. You are God's child—holy and dearly loved because of Jesus's death in your place. God's grace is for you! Your sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

Amen!

Prayer

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to meet us with your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷“ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²“These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

¹³“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you.

¹⁵Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

¹⁶“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

God's Word

Romans 9:6-16

⁶It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ⁸In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. ⁹For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁰Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. ¹¹Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: ¹²not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵For he says to Moses,

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

¹⁶It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

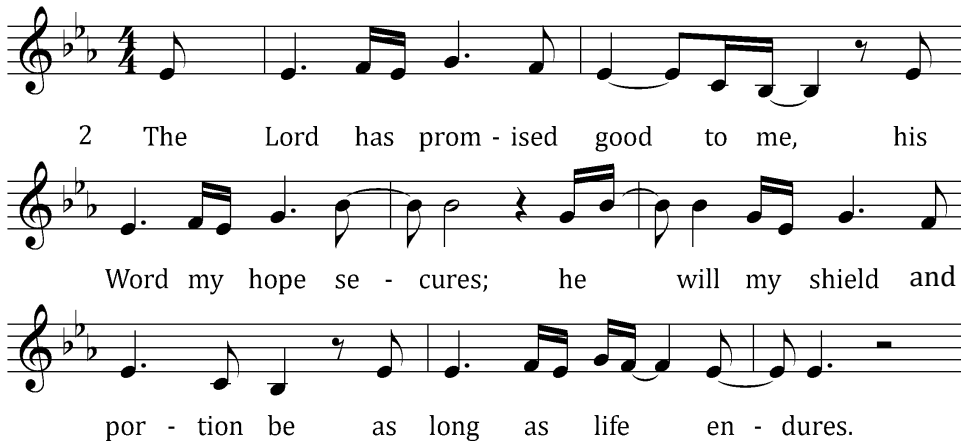
Children's Message

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Vocalist:

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

All:



2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

The musical notation is for a three-part vocal setting in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first line shows the vocal melody for the first measure of the chorus, starting on a whole note G4. The second line continues the melody for the next two measures, ending on a half note G4. The third line continues the melody for the next two measures, ending on a whole note G4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

Vocalist:

My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.

Continues on the next page.

All:



3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



safe thus far and grace will lead me home. *refrain twice*
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Refrain



My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my



Sa - vior has ran - somed me. And like a



flood his mer - cy reigns, un - end - ing



love, a - maz - ing grace.

Text & tune: John Newton; Louie Giglio; Chris Tomlin © 2006 worship.together.com songs; Vamos Publishing; Rising Springs Music.
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¹⁰When God saw what [the Ninevites] did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

¹But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

⁴But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

⁵Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

¹⁰But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

"Should I Not Have Concern?"

Statement of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer follows the prayer spoken by the pastor.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

The Bible teaches that receiving the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and other Christians, united by a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask those who have made that public confession of faith by being a member St. Mark's or another WELS or ELS church come forward for Communion. Guests, please speak with our pastor to learn more, and we look forward to communing with you in the future.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us, and grant us your peace. Amen.**

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

The ushers will direct those receiving Communion up the center aisle, returning down the outer aisle. You may receive a wafer in your hand from the Communion assistant. Those who require a gluten-free wafer may take one from the assistant's smaller tray. Tinted cups in the center of the wine trays contain grape juice. Your empty cup can be placed on the backside of the rail. When at the rail, you may kneel or stand. If you need Communion in the pew, please let an usher or the pastor know.

Jesus Loves Me

Blue hymnal 584



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.
He will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, abr.; Spanish tr. unknown
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868
Text and tune: Public domain

**Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

Blue hymnal 677 sts. 1-5



1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, we cel - e -
 2 He blot - ted out with his own blood the judg - ment
 3 That this for - ev - er true shall be he gives a
 4 His Word pro - claims and we be - lieve that in this
 5 A pre - cious food is this in - deed, it nev - er



brate with one ac - cord; it is our com - fort
 that a - gainst us stood; he full a - tone - ment
 sol - emn guar - an - tee; in this his ho - ly
 sup - per we re - ceive his ver - y bod - y,
 fails us in our need, a heav'n - ly man - na



in dis - tress, our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.
 for us made, and all our debt he ful - ly paid.
 sup - per here we taste his love, so sweet, so near.
 as he said, his ver - y blood for sin - ners shed.
 for our soul un - til we safe - ly reach our goal.

Text: Haquin Spegel, 1645–1714, abr.; tr. Olof Olsson, 1841–1900, alt.

Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742

Text and tune: Public domain

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen!

The Church's One Foundation

Blue hymnal 855 sts. 1-2, 5



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
5 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, abr., alt.

Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Worship Leader: Pastor Kurt Wetzel

Musical Accompanist: Marty Puckett

Violin/Cello: Vince Beiderbecke

Guitar: Diego Macias, Adam Naves, Ryan Olson

Percussion: Don Black, Daniel Joseph

Audio/Visual: Curtis Roth

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today		LWMS Mission Box Offering
	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:30 a.m.	Teen Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	2:00 p.m.	Open Gym
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	GriefShare #8
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel Service
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Joy of Living (JOL) Women's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Starting Point # 3
Friday	12:00 p.m.	School Early Dismissal
Next Sunday		LWMS Mission Box Offering
	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:30 a.m.	Teen Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Janet Puckett	<i>Sept 20</i>	
Judy Lawson	<i>Sept 21</i>	
William Schweighardt		
Virginia Richardson	<i>Sept 22</i>	Shannon & Louisa Burke
Todd Robson		
Teresa Milam	<i>Sept 25</i>	
Laura Turner	<i>Sept 26</i>	

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